PIL regarding Jama Masjid

2877. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any notice from the Delhi High Court seeking replies to the points raised in a Public Interest Litigation in the court regarding the Jama Masjid in Delhi being a den for terrorists and criminals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the position taken by government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. No such notice appears to have been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Al-Qaeda in Assam

2878. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared on page 9 of the Hindustan Times dated the 21st October, 2002 captioned 'Al-Qaeda find safe heaven in Assam' ;

(b) if so, the reaction and assessment of Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that Al-Qaeda men are not allowed any shelter on the Indian soil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the Government of Assam, there has so far been no information of Al-Qeada having set up a base in the Assam State. However, the Government of Assam has alerted the security forces deployed in the region in this regard. The security along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Assam has also been further tightened and vigil in the bordering areas has been intensified to prevent the entry of Al-Qaeda activists into the State.